

	MONFORTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 27	
	6001 Monforton School Road	Phone: 406-586-1557 Cell: 406-581-5969
	Bozeman, Montana 59718	Lynne Scalia Superintendent & Principal

January 18, 2007

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 1/19/07
239

The Honorable Mike Phillips
Montana Senate
P. O. Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Dear Representative Phillips:

On behalf of the Monforton Parents Auxiliary, and the teachers and staff of the Monforton School District 27, we wish to offer our unequivocal support for HB 239, to increase the fine for violating a speed limit near a school. We believe passage of this bill will prove to be life saving for Monforton students and families.

Monforton is a K-8 independent elementary school district located in the Four Corners area of Bozeman, Montana. We are a rural school in the middle of a fast growing commercial and residential area. The District has property on both the west and east sides of Monforton School Road. Over the past decade the entire community: students, trustees, staff, families, neighbors and county commissioners have worked tirelessly to build safe routes to school in order to keep students safe.

Unfortunately, students are still not safe. In the past two years, we have two students struck by vehicles on their way to or from school. One student was walking. One was on his bicycle. Last winter, our school bus veered into a ditch with a bus filled with students to avoid a head-on collision with a car violating the speed limit on icy roads in front of the school. Fortunately, we have not had students maimed or killed in any of these accidents, but fear it is only a matter of time before we do.

As the superintendent and principal of a 160-student school, I am alarmed by the increasing number of reports of speeding vehicles in our school zone. Even our younger students have been moved to tackle the problem. The Monforton fifth graders are currently working with the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office in an attempt to get better signage so that they can cross the road safely with their PE teacher in order to reach the playing fields.

HB 239 is worthy of your consideration. Increased fines for vehicles breaking the special speed limit near a school is an effective deterrent. There is no doubt that children's lives will be saved.

Respectfully,

*Lynne Scalia
Superintendent and Principal
*Monforton Parent Auxiliary
*Monforton School Teachers and Staff
(signatures on mailed original)